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RICHMOND, VA., SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 1898.

THREE CENTS COPY.

WHITE HOUSE QUIET.

President Busy in the Preparation of His Message.

NO CHANGE IN THE SITUATION.

War Imminent, But It Is Still Thought It May Be Averted.

THE PEOPLE NOW THINKING.

They Are Preparing for Right Action When Time for Action Comes.

PRESIDENT WILL DEAL FRANKLY.

He Will Also Indicate to Congress His Own Plans and Wishes.

NO PROSPECT OF MEDIATION.

Relief Expressed by McKinley's Latest Visitor, Editor Smith, That the Question Will Now Be Settled Between Spain and This Country.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—The quietude of the White House to-night was in striking contrast to the intense activity and repressed excitement of the past few days. For several hours the President was alone in his private library, busily engaged in the preparation of his forthcoming message to Congress. No callers were received, except by appointment, and with the two or three whom the President did see he conversed very briefly.

About 9 o'clock Mr. Charles Emory Smith, editor of the Philadelphia Press and one of the President's confidential friends, joined Mr. McKinley in the library, and remained in conference with him for half an hour. As he left the Executive mansion Mr. Smith said that he was, of course, not at liberty to disclose the nature of his visit to the President. He added, however, in response to inquiries, that he could see no change in the situation. War was, he believed, imminent, but it might yet be averted. He was quite satisfied that it would not precipitate it on Monday, and gave the impression by his remarks that the forthcoming message would not be sent to Congress before Tuesday. Now that the country realized that we were on the verge of serious trouble, he said, there was a meditative spirit abroad. The people were thinking and preparing themselves for right action, so soon as the time for action should arrive.

In the message upon which so much now hinges, Mr. Smith felt assured that the President would deal fully and frankly with Congress and with the country. The entire question in hand would be presented calmly and thoughtfully, and with a full sense of the responsibility of the Executive. The President would, however, indicate his own plans and wishes, thereby accepting his share of whatever might be the result, as was becoming in a brave, patriotic, American President.

Mr. Smith said, in conclusion, that he knew nothing of the prospect of mediation to be offered by foreign Powers, except what he had seen in the newspapers; but intimated that the question now would be settled on the one hand by Spain and on the other by the Congress and the President of the United States.

WITH THE KEY WEST FLEET.

Sharp Proof of Alertness Maintained.

Refugees from Habana.

KEY WEST, FLA., April 2.—The monitor Terror arrived here this evening.

A tug endeavored to pass the flagship New York too close last night, and did not answer the signals of the warship, whereupon a 4-pound shot was fired across her bows. Those on board the tug received a severe fright. After an investigation, which followed, the tug was allowed to proceed into the harbor.

The call to quarters and the firing of the shot was done with extraordinary rapidity, and showed to what a pitch of alertness this fleet has attained.

The gunboat Newport sailed in today, looking like a white swan among the lead-colored, dismantled warships. She came from Tampa. The last touches to the work of preparing the ships for action were being given throughout the day.

Unnecessary, the boats were unloading from the docks and sent ashore, along with other useful paraphernalia. On the Detroit, the deck ward-room has been completely torn away, and on the other ships similar changes have taken place.

No movement of the fleet is expected until Tuesday, or even later, although everything is in readiness for any emergency.

Father Childwick, chaplain of the Maine, left today for New York, via Miami.

The provisions for the sufferers in Cuba, which have been at the naval station here for over two weeks, waiting for boats to take them to their destination, were today turned over to the Plant Line, which will probably ship them to Habana on Tuesday next.

The patrol duty to-night was taken by the cruiser Marblehead, and the usual two torpedo-boats. The greatest vigilance is observed.

The steamer Mascotte, from Habana, which arrived to-night, brought a dozen or more French and English bankers and merchants, who had left Cuba under telegraphic instructions from the houses they represent in their respective countries. The agency of their instructions was such that no delay was incurred in the winding up of their business.

OUR FIGHTING UNIFORM.

Of Canvas, and in Color a Gray Brown.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—General Miles, commanding the army, after conferring with Secretary Alger, has ordered canvas uniforms, with a view to their general introduction as a light and serviceable field uniform by the United States army.

The sample uniforms already ordered are of strong canvas, of fine texture, but durable material. The color is a gray-brown, said to be particularly desirable in time of hostilities, as it is difficult to distinguish it from the earth, grass, cornfields, or dead leaves.

WOODFORD NOT LEAVING.

Strong European Pressure on Spain for Armistice.

MADRID, April 2.—P. M.—The report published in the Imparcial that United States Minister Woodford was preparing to leave Madrid is entirely without foundation.

Strong pressure is being brought to bear by some of the European Powers

upon the Queen Regent and the Cabinet for the granting of an immediate armistice, to take effect as soon as the insurgents shall accept the proposition. Cuba, between the Autonomist Government and the insurgents, looking to the establishment of a permanent peace, it is not known what decision Spain will make in the matter.

MEDIATION BY THE POPE.

Archbishop Ireland Asked to Intervene with McKinley.

ROME, April 2.—Vatican circles announce that Archbishop Keane, bishop assistant at the Pontifical throne, in the name of the Pope, has sent to Archbishop Ireland an expression of the earnest desire of his Holiness that Archbishop Ireland shall use his influence with President McKinley in favor of a pacificatory attitude on the Cuban question.

It is explained that Archbishop Ireland was asked to do this because of his friendship with President McKinley.

MGR. MARTINELLI NOT INFORMED.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—Monsignor Martinelli, the Pontifical delegate, stated to-night that no proposition for mediation in the Cuban matter had been brought to the attention of the delegation.

He stated that if instructions with that end in view had been sent to Archbishop Ireland, either formally or informally, as reported from Rome, he was wholly unaware of it.

TO CORNER SOUTHERN COAL.

Combination for This Purpose in Anticipation of War.

PITTSBURGH, April 2.—The Dispatch will say to-morrow: A combination has been formed by John H. Jones, C. Jutta & Co., Joseph Walton & Co., and S. S. Brown, big river-coal operators, for the purpose of cornering the southern coal market in anticipation of war prices for that commodity.

FLOTILLA NOT AT PORTO RICO.

NEW YORK, April 2.—A telegram of inquiry, addressed to the manager of the cable station at San Juan de Puerto Rico, regarding the report that the Spanish torpedo flotilla had arrived there, to-night elicited a response that the flotilla had not arrived.

Privateering for Spain.

MADRID, April 2.—It is reported that the Spanish Naval Department has received numerous overtures from native and foreign mercantile marine to prepare privateers.

Senor Sagasta is alive to the gravity of the situation, and seems inclined to believe this bold move will deter the United States from pushing its demands into war.

The Montgomery at Norfolk.

NORFOLK, VA., April 2.—The gunboat Montgomery, painted a dull lead-color, and with her decks stripped for action, came to the navy-yard to-day for repairs.

No Spanish Troops from Mexico.

MEXICO CITY, April 2.—The government will prevent any raising of troops here by Spaniards, as has been contemplated along the frontier.

GERMANY AFTER SPAIN.

Prompt Action Toward Obtaining Indemnity in Cannanaba Case.

BERLIN, April 2.—Germany proposes to take prompt action to obtain indemnity in the Cannanaba case. The Spanish Ambassador has been formally notified by the German Minister for Foreign Affairs that the warship Geier has been ordered to sail in the direction of Cuba (she is now believed to be in West Indian waters), to punish the insurgents, who, it is claimed, burned a German sugar refinery and murdered four persons there, and to collect an indemnity, unless Spain punishes the offenders promptly, and makes monetary compensation for the damage done and the lives taken.

The Spanish Ambassador has promised to do his utmost to comply with the German demands.

BIG FIRE IN ROCK HILL, S. C.

It Looks as if the Whole Town Were Doomed.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., April 2.—A disastrous fire is raging in Rock Hill, S. C., twenty-four miles below Charlotte. Up to this hour—2:30 A. M.—the main business block of the town, consisting of seven stores, is in ashes. The flames have crossed the street, and other stores are on fire.

The fire originated in the Racket store, but how is not known. It was discovered at 12 o'clock.

At the present writing it looks as if the whole town would be destroyed. The Mayor of Charlotte, in response to a telegraphic call for help, sent a steamer and reel, the apparatus being shipped on a special train over the Southern.

It is impossible at this hour to get any idea of the loss.

JAPAN DOUBTS BRITAIN.

A Growing Feeling of Resentment Against Later.

YOKOHAMA, April 2.—The Japanese newspapers think that the British naval display is not directed against Russia, but is intended to coerce China into making concessions to Great Britain.

The belief is expressed that Japan is to be left in isolation, for which state of affairs Great Britain is blamed, and there is consequently a growing feeling of resentment against that country.

The newspapers generally urge the retention of Japanese troops at Wei-Hai-Wei, after the war indemnity shall have been paid by China.

OUR CONSULS IN CUBA.

Arrangements for Their Protection.

Gen. Lee and the Newspaper Men.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—The Post to-morrow will say:

"Directions have been given to the consuls in Cuba to repair to Habana, in order that they may be able to leave the island without danger, in case of war. Arrangements have been made for General Lee's safe withdrawal. The American consular correspondents in Habana are to be given the utmost protection, and they will be allowed to leave with General Lee.

"Senator Platt, of New York, who has taken great interest in the arrangements for the protection of the correspondents, has had an interview with Assistant-Secretary Day upon the subject."

Chicago Lake-Front Decision.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—A decision was rendered by the Interior Department to-day, in the Chicago lake-front case, holding that the lake is toward the eastern boundary line of the section in question, and in the conveyance of that section the water-line conveyed included the riparian rights, and the United States have no right to any accessions to the land in controversy.

New Torpedo-Boats in Commission.

NEWPORT, R. I., April 2.—The new torpedo-boats Gwyn and Talbot went into commission to-day.

OUR CRISIS ABROAD.

Interest in London on the Subject Intense.

EUROPE REGRETS THE OUTLOOK.

Among Other Things Because It Fears Aggravation of European Unrest.

SPAIN THOUGHT TO BE TEMPORIZING.

Best Informed Londoners Still Hold to This View of the Situation.

ACTIVITY AMONG DIPLOMATS.

It Is Believed the Madrid Government Is Seeking the Friendly Offices of Britain—French, Austrian, and Russian Efforts.

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LONDON, April 2.—The nervousness of the stock markets, which was emphasized by a sudden drop of 3 points in Spanish fours at the opening of the Stock Exchange to-day, has been fully reflected in diplomatic circles, which have experienced almost as much difficulty as outsiders in extracting facts from the mass of contradictory statements regarding the Hispano-American crisis until to-day.

The distinctly warlike tone of the great mass of the evidence, and the marked divergence of the United States demands and Spain's proposals have led the majority to conclude that the parting of the ways has been reached, unless, within a few hours Senor Sagasta is able to give assurances that the delay he asks for will ensure the complete freedom of Cuba.

It is not too much to say that all Europe regrets it, though for the present some of the nations are thus moved because friendly nations are involved, and others because they fear the war will spread and aggravate the feverish European spirit of unrest. Therefore, it is hoped that a solution will be found, even though Spain is apparently intractable.

The best-informed persons believe Spain is only temporizing, as it is recognized there is difficulty in the Spanish Government's accepting without demur the demands of the United States, in view of the danger of the overthrow of the monarchy. So, though realizing the hopelessness of averting war has come as a shock, which have given enhanced interest to the statement of a prominent ship-owning member of the House of Commons that the United States for the day had been offering very large sums for 19-knot steamers.

General interest in the situation is intense. All the news bulletins are eagerly scanned, and in the lobbies of the House of Commons yesterday evening there were animated discussions of the crisis.

The British thirty-knot torpedo-boat destroyers are manned by crews of fifty-eight men all told, but in the Spanish destroyers the men number all told over seventy.

SPEED OF THE BOATS.

The trials of the Audaz and Osado were only completed toward the end of last month, but probably owing to the present state of matters between the United States and Spain everything in connection with their doings has been kept secret.

The Audaz, which was launched on November 10, 1897, and was built by a government commission under the presidency of Comodoro Triguero, with whom were Lieuts. Ariza, Guimara, and Vazquez, Naval Architect Tallero, Messrs. Thompson, and Rayner.

The trials of the trial was seventy-three tons. The results of the trial gave a mean speed of 30.12 knots on the measured mile at Skelmorlie, and during a continuous run of one hour and a half a speed of 20.12 knots was maintained.

At the conclusion of the forced draught trial the vessel was, according to contract, run for a further period of two hours under natural draught, the speed attained being 27.1 knots, or 7.10 of the contract.

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Captain Davis's dying declaration before a notary was that Ward, Brann's man, was the man who was in the boat at the time, shot him as he lay on the sidewalk. Upon this statement Ward was to-day arrested and jailed, charged with murder.

SPAIN'S TORPEDO FLEET.

Boats Built at Greenock—The Pluton Makes Thirty Knots an Hour.

(Washington Star.)

In the torpedo flotilla which left Cadiz, Spain, March 13th, for Porto Rico, are the destroyers Pluton and Terror and the Audaz and Osado were launched at Greenock during February and March of last year, respectively. They should have been completed long ago, but it has not been for the engineers' strikes in Britain, which delayed all classes of ship-building. The Audaz, Osado, Pluton, and Terror are much similar to the latest class of British torpedo-boat destroyers. While the British boats are 200 feet in length, with an average breadth of 19 feet, and of 300 tons displacement, the Spanish destroyers have a length of 225 feet, with a beam of 22½ feet, and their displacement in tonnage close on 400 tons.

In appearance, also, the Spanish vessels look larger and fiercer, and, therefore, are constructed entirely of steel, and are equipped with a large number of machine-guns, and a large number of torpedoes. The Audaz and Osado are equipped with a large number of machine-guns, and a large number of torpedoes. The Pluton and Terror are equipped with a large number of machine-guns, and a large number of torpedoes.

As a preventive from falling overboard there is, of course, a railing all around the vessel, which, when it is used, is raised, and is also fitted with ladders, for spreading awnings in warm climates. On deck are principally the funnels, of which they have three, a noticeable feature being that the middle one is double the size of the other two.

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